1	2	3
19.	Keonjhar	31
20.	Angul	29
21.	Dhenkanal	29
22.	Koraput	23
23.	Malkangiri	6
24.	Nowrangpur	11
25.	Rayagada	20
26.	Sambalpur	26
27.	Jharsuguda	12
28.	Bargarh	32
29.	Deogarh	3
30.	Sundargarh	39
	Total	719

PCO in Bihar

2095. SHRI THOMAS HANSDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of PCOs allotted in urban and rural areas in Bihar;

(b) the details of post offices in rural areas which do not have PCOs and target time to install PCOs in every village Post Office, district-wise;

(c) whether SCs/STs are given preferential treatment in allotment of PCO booths; and

(d) if so, the number of PCO booths allotted to SCs/STs alongwith details?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of House as soon as possible.

Utilisation of Bitragunta Loco Shed

2096. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are not utilising the existing infrastructure and Railway assets at Bitragunta Loco shed under South Central Railway instead of spending huge amounts to build the same elsewhere; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) At present there is no Loco shed existing at Bitragunta in South Central Railway. Due to Electricification and Dieselisation the Steam Loco shed there was closed down in 1981. No amount is being spent on building Steam Loco sheds elsewhere.

Gauge Conversion

2097. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the total kilometer of narrow gauge railway lines have been converted into broad gauge during 1991-1996;

(b) if so, the total expenditure incurred thereon during the above period;

(c) the details of the States benefited;

(d) whether the Railways have seriously considered for the gauge conversion from Quilon to Virudhunagar in Southern Railway; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) 341 kms of NG lines have been converted into BG since 01.04.91 till date.

(b) During the priod, a sum of Rs. 235 crores were spent on gauge conversion of narrow gauge lines.

(c) The States benefited are Gujarat, Karnataka, Bihar, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The project has been included in the Budget 97-98 at a cost of Rs. 280 crores. The work will be taken up after the necessary clearances have been obtained.

Development of Sidh Baba Sodal Temple, Jallandhar

2098. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received proposals from the Government of Punjab for the development of Sidh Baba Sodal Temple, Jallandhar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that this temple has been neglected by the Union Government inspite of developing it as an international tourist place and famous pilgrimage centre;

(d) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(e) whether any financial assistance has been sought by the Government of Punjab for its development; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount released by the Union Government, so far?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (f) The Department of Tourism has not received any proposal from Government of Punjab for development of Sidh Baba Sodal Temple.